

ABSTRACT

A computer platform is described that provides control features to allow for the protection of intellectual property rights and prevent malfunctioning of the platform. The platform uses 1) a secure operating system including a secure memory management system, 2) public key encryption, 3) data authentication through digital signatures and 4) application/data approval through a flexible access policy through the use of object handlers and an application program approval process. Through these four control features, the platform provides the ability to control access to data and minimize the effects of computer malfunctions.